

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 25 to 27 are allowed and claims 2 through 21 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,373,503). Claims 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugar (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0080728). Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sugar in view of Holloway (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0196857). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include a limitation that the parameters comprise slot time, access method and group process scheme. This list of parameters was previously presented in claim 21, which was indicated to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose the claimed method and apparatus comprising the parameters of slot time, access method and group process scheme. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 20 are patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 22-24 depend from and include the limitations of claim 20, and are believed to be patentable over the prior art at least for the reason discussed above with respect to claim 20.

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Reply to Office action of March 18, 2008

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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